

AMATOLA FLY FISHING CLUB

Incorporating the Frontier Acclimatisation Society and the Stutterheim Trout Angling Club

NEWSLETTER – SPRING / SEPTEMBER 2015



One never knows what the weather will do from hour to hour in the Eastern Cape and especially so in September, when things are about as unsettled as a cat that's fallen into the loo. We got lucky though for the second year in a row as Saturday the 5th September, our annual fund-raiser fishing day, dawned with perfect fishing-weather. I knew it was going to be a good one when one of the early starters pulling away from the slipway in his kickboat was into a fish before one could say Walker's Killer. Followed by another fish and another jumping all over the place in their feisty style that is typical for Gubu in autumn and spring.

43 People joined us for our event and I don't know how many fish got caught, I didn't get to ask all of the 33 entrants, but random sampling of 14 anglers gave an average of 12 fish each for the day, with highs of 19 and lows of 3 or 4 (one chap blanked and his name is withheld out of kindness). That implies that the total for the day was in the order of 300 fish; so it seemed they were biting. The vast majority of fish were last year's stockies; they're all in the 35cm - 39cm / 500g – 700g range now. The two-year old fish are in the 41cm – 44cm / 900g – 1.2kg. The older fish are more of a mixture. Scott Blair, the silent warrior, caught the biggest fish for the day, a beaut, 2.75kg hen that came to hand in the eleventh hour. Dean Stoltz had the second biggest fish of 1.2kg and Craig Rance was at no.3 with a 1kg fish. Francois Sparks, who lives around the corner from Gubu, is my fish barometer; if he's catching a fish in a session then things are good. If he's catching two fish in a session then things are really looking up. Francois caught four on Saturday afternoon so either Gubu was on fire or he's been to the witchdoctor at Keiskammahoek lately. The bottom line is it was a great day made all the better by sunshine, a cheerful breeze and happy fishermen.

The evening followed with the prize giving, warthogs on the spit done to a turn, and Dean Stoltz on the sound machine (there was also some sort of singing by what appeared to be karaoke addicts, Warren Summers and Andrew Holdstock—I think alcohol was involved). See pics on the last page.

In other news, the Gubu clubhouse is in the process of getting a partly new roof and a roof overhaul for the rest of it, the work is being done (thoroughly it seems too) by RV Smith and when I left Gubu the job was 70% complete and looking good. Other structural maintenance is planned for the near future and then we hope to spend a little resources on some aesthetics and nice to haves (more in the AGM minutes, which will follow at a later date.) A short note on cleaning at the Gubu clubhouse, the ash and burned coals from the fire places must be dumped at the base of the first pine tree behind the bathroom block against the fence, and not in the open area directly adjacent to the bathroom block that has now been cleared and cleaned. Also, please remember to take all your rubbish home with you and don't leave anything in the clubhouse that MIGHT seem useful e.g. empty water bottles. If your wife wouldn't want it lying around in your house, please don't leave it in our house.

The next stocking is set for Friday afternoon 30th October for Maden followed by Saturday morning for Gubu. Gubu will be stocked with 15610, 8cm fish and Maden with 3265 rainbows respectively. We would like some helpers for Maden who can bring a canoe or similar small boat to help distribute and spread the stockies around the dam. For Gubu, we'll stock using Karl Krull's boat to achieve same but a few hands to help with handling, passing, and carrying the 20L buckets of fish between the hatchery

pools to the bakkie and to the boat respectively would be a help. E-mail me to let me know you're coming.

At this point I would like to thank everyone who was involved in one way or another during our recent fundraising day and especially too also helping the club in-general throughout the year. See the alphabetical list below. REMEMBER THESE NAMES WHEN YOU ARE THINKING OF SPENDING MONEY ON ANY OF THE RESPECTIVE PRODUCTS.

Africa's Original Fly Fishing magazine / Sheena Carnie: subscription prizes and starter pack magazines.
Alex Mcleod / Omnispool: prize sponsor, see www.omnispool.com
Alfred Eckleben and family: catering and warthogs on the spit done perfectly (call Alfred on 0835147719).
Amatola Forests / Rance Timbers / Craig Rance, Francois Sparks, Craig Warren, Ian Taylor: firewood donation and always there for the club for all sorts of help and support.
Andrew Pautz / Rapala VMC: one of AFFC's behind the scenes right-hand men and Rapala VMC go-between.
Awesome Tools (Leatherman, Opinel, Eze-Lap, LED Lenser products): prize sponsor and AFFC supporter.
Craig Bertram Smith: prize sponsor, see his fishing artwork at www.craigbertramsmith.co.za
Colin Levy: AFFC fishing records clerk.
Devin Isemonger & Mandy Dugmore: behind the scenes help.
De Waal Spies: braaimaster and helping with the catering.
Donald Kemp: behind the scenes helper who can be relied on for solid local info and assistance.
Glenn Raath / Debonairs Oxford Street: AFFC's Minister of Finance, another right-hand man, prize sponsor, catering sponsor, etc.
Justin Thackeray: committee member and IT/website and related support.
Krull Meats / Karl & Victor Krull: acquiring, processing, and donating all the boerie rolls sausage and the warthogs, also stocking logistics, and other behind the scenes help.
Kingfisher: prize sponsor
Malcolm Klein & team @ CB4 Retail: solid support for anything we need printed e.g. signs, stickers, notices.
Marco Olivieri & Jo Killian: committee member, catering sponsor, behind the scenes, etc.
Martin and Ryan von Holdt: committee member and behind the scenes help.
Miles Vice @ Pennypinchers with Warren Summers: assistance with maintenance and hardware supplies.
Pedro de Abreu @ Criterion Supermarket: sponsoring all the borrie rolls' rolls and behind the scenes help.
Rapala VMC / Grant Pledger: prize sponsor and consistent AFFC supporter.
Robin & Ronald in the house on the hill: for all they do at Gubu as the club's bailiffs.
RV Smith / Gordon Smith: for giving the club a majorly discounted rate on the roofing job.
Ryan Smith: AFFC's secretary, starter pack donation, and behind the scenes help.
Sandile's Rest / Grant Wylie: prize sponsor, AFFC's source of fish at discounted rates, and behind the scenes support.
Scientific Fly / Arno Laubscher: prize and starter pack sponsor and AFFC supporter.
Shaun Peterson: committee member, insurance admin, and the major driving force with much of the clubhouse and Gubu ground's maintenance tasks at a admin and physical levels.
Target Line / Dean Stoltz: prize sponsor, consistent AFFC supporter, and behind the scenes support.
The Complete Flyfisherman magazine / Lizelle & PJ Jacobs: prize sponsor.
Tourette Fishing / Keith Clover & Rob Scott: prize sponsor and consistent AFFC supporter.
Xplorer Fly Fishing / John Geils & Dayle Mack: prize and starter pack sponsor and the only major fly fishing wholesaler who has consistently supported AFFC.

There will be more news and updates to follow in the minutes of the AGM, which will be sent out later in October. See pics from September's event on the next page.

Tight loops,

Edward (041-3689324 / truter.edward@gmail.com)



Scott Blair with his winning fish that ate a ScientificFly Papa Roach just before the gong. Note that in the bet-on-the-winner contest, two folks bet on Scott to win. One of them was himself, but as the specified weight was closer than that of his other backer, he won (although Scott donated his winnings back to the club). For his efforts, Scott will get to enjoy a trip to Lesotho hosted by Tourette Fishing.



Karaoke? Eish! Thank you for the fine entertainment Deane. At least you knew what you were doing.



Noah Krull and Alfred Eckleben with the warthog squeakers on the roundabout. Alfred and his team did a marvelous job. Tastes like chicken they said.



Some of the day's prizewinners. Prizes that didn't get allotted to fish-weight rankings were won on a lucky-draw basis.